



Manchester Health Workers' Strikes

Defend Karen Reissman!

Almost 90% of mental health workers in Manchester have voted to strike in defence of Karen Reissman. Karen has been working as a community psychiatric nurse for the past twenty five years and is the UNISON branch secretary.

Earlier this year in response to proposed cuts, Karen was a leading figure in the strikes which reversed any proposals on cuts and made gains in staffing levels and mental health care provision in Manchester. After the workers won, Karen was suspended for speaking out against the cuts. Management claimed they "had lost confidence in her".

Three days of strikes have been called starting on the 29th August as well as demonstrations (see back page) in defence of Karen and the attacks on health workers in Manchester and across the country. It is important that we all support Karen in her fight to get reinstated, and join together to fight the cuts in the NHS. ★

Victory for Embattled North Providence IWW

News from the USA. On Saturday 11th August, the police beat up and hospitalised Alex Svoboda, a peaceful marcher of Rhode Island IWW (Industrial Workers of the World).

The local IWW had organised a demonstration to stop the chain restaurant "Jacky's Galaxy" contracts with HWH/Dragonland. That company is guilty of a wide variety of unfair labour practices.

The local cops ordered the marchers onto the pavement. When they did as told, they were attacked with mace and batons by the police. One suffered burns. Alex got a dislocated knee and ruptured blood vessel. She now faces criminal charges along with another marcher!

Despite this, the march continued and wobblers were able to speak to the owner of "Jacky's Galaxy", Jacky Ko. Following this and continued pressure from the IWW and members of the local community, on Thursday 16th August Jacky Ko pledged under oath in front of IWW lawyers in Providence Superior Court that he no longer does, nor will he ever again, knowingly do business



Rhode Island Police attack Alex Svoboda

with HWH/Dragonland.

A new buffet restaurant in Providence has also now confirmed that they have stopped using HWH/Dragonland.

For Alex and her fellow workers the struggle still continues. They need money for legal support and to help with medical bills. Alex has finished her third operation and is awaiting a fourth. There isn't any guarantee at this time she will not suffer permanent damage. The IWW plans a further march to protest police brutality and violation of civil rights and to celebrate the recent victories of the IWW and workers everywhere. ★

This is the paypal e-mail address Alex is using for her support funds: albiorix80@yahoo.com

If sending mail, please send it to Providence GMB: PO Box 5795 Providence R.I. 02903

Support the Posties

The post workers have suspended their strikes pending negotiations. But we hear reports of part time workers working unpaid overtime, posties driving their own cars to get to their shifts because the bosses have cut the number of vans.

Other reports are coming in of management plans to recruit large numbers of temporary staff as strikebreakers.

It's easy to support the posties. A few words of support when they deliver your mail go a long way. They need to realize we back them. When the strikes resume, join the pickets lines.

They also have to make sure their union, the CWU, doesn't do a deal behind their backs. ★

Crichton saved?

But the fight goes on

We reported in our last issue of the fight to save Crichton Campus in Dumfries. The University of Glasgow had planned to shut it as a cost cutting measure.

The news has just reached us that the Scottish Executive have provided additional resources and Glasgow University has reversed its decision so as to allow undergraduate student entry for 2008-09. The current curriculum provided by Glasgow University has also been largely saved despite the attempts by the Scottish Funding Council who wanted only a limited range of vocational HE courses available in South-west Scotland.

But the situation for many of the staff remains touch and go. Support staff, especially those in IT and Library service are under threat of redundancy.

The large support from the local community with their petitions and letter writing campaigns; the protests organised by students, including a 100 mile march on Glasgow were crucial. The UCU union, Community Councils and local press were also supportive. Special mention should also be made of the IWW who gave active support and whose members help energise the campaign and spread it up, especially into the main campus of Glasgow University.

So some good news, but the struggle will no doubt continue. ★

Resistance in Rossport



Arrests, Courts, Blockades

Resistance is continuing in Erris, in the west of Ireland, to the state's plan to turn the area into a refinery zone for the exploitation of offshore gas resources. Shell are building the first part at the moment. Construction was brought to a halt on the morning of Monday August the 27th, after local campaigners gained access to the site. In July three local fishermen were imprisoned for allegedly assaulting a police officer during a protest at the refinery site in October 2006. The cop had no recollection of being assaulted by anyone, but the judge is married to a politician that supports the project.

The sentence was three months imprisonment.

On the Friday following the sentencing all traffic into the site was stopped, and for that reason all work, when two people blocked a road off by locking themselves underneath a car parked across it. When construction traffic

tried to use another road - one for which they had no official permission to use - that too was blocked by residents. That night over one hundred people took part in a mass trespass on the construction site. After a few days in prison the men were released on remand pending an appeal.

Later that month there was another mass trespass onto the site.

Residents managed to stop the original pipeline route, so Shell have brought in a consultancy firm, RPS, to map out eight possible new routes, including new ones which adjoin schools and a main road. RPS are the only sub-contractor with extensive premises in Britain.

Full details of those offices can be seen here: http://www.rpsgroup.com/location_html/great-britain.html

The council has began eviction proceedings against Rossport Solidarity Camp, a protest camp established on the pipeline route in 2005. Local people have rallied round with cash, land and houses. So even if the eviction is successful the camp will continue.

Campaigners plan a mass sit down blockade of the refinery site on Friday, September 14th, which will involve a gathering of campaign supporters from around Ireland. ★

For more information see: www.rossportsolidaritycamp.com www.indymedia.ie/mayo www.shelltosea.com

ANARCHIST FEDERATION NEWS

Lindholme Solidarity Demo

On Tuesday 10th August, members and supporters of No Borders along with Sheffield and Nottingham Anarchist Federation demonstrated at Lindholme detention centre in solidarity with asylum seekers incarcerated there and elsewhere, and for the closure of all such centres.

The demo was met with a nervous (and hugely disproportionate) response by South Yorkshire police. Protesters were hassled, filmed, banned from peaceful marching along certain areas around the centre and finally blocked from exit of the site. Doncaster's chief inspector imposed a Section 14 on the demonstration disallowing us from doing a full tour of the periphery. One beleaguered comrade was even put under surveillance after deciding to sit down in an adjoining field to have a quiet lunch - never underestimate the power of the picnic!!

Despite this, we displayed banners, chanted messages of solidarity, and did a little tour of the site. Our true intentions for the day held through and despite an extended game of "cat and mouse" with South

Yorkshire Bobbies a visual show of support was much appreciated by detainees, who we were in contact with throughout the day. ★

Starbucks National Day of Action:

On Thursday 18th August, the Anarchist Federation supported the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) and No Sweat in a national day of action against the coffee chain Starbucks. Starbucks exploits its workers and the farmers who grow the coffee beans it uses. Worldwide it has over 12,000 stores and employs over 100,000 people. In Britain, it has over 500 stores employing 5,000 workers. Starbucks baristas in the UK are barely paid above the minimum wage and are subject to excessive working hours, unpaid overtime; work at a relentless pace, resulting in repetitive strain injuries for many workers. In the US, Starbucks has waged an illegal union-busting campaign resulting in firing of six baristas in New York City. Coffee growers receive little more than 0.50p for a pound of coffee, which is then sold for £80. Demonstrations were held in ten cities throughout the UK, including Glasgow, Leeds, Edinburgh, Leicester and London. ★

For more info: www.starbucksunion.org or www.baristasunited.org.uk

No Borders

No Borders - No Nations - No Prisons

The Gatwick No Border Camp 2007
From 19th to 24th September No Borders are holding the first No Border Camp in the UK at Gatwick Airport. This camp will be a chance to work together to try and stop the building of a new detention centre, and to gather ideas for how to build up the fight against the system of migration controls.

Gatwick Airport - The Border Point
Gatwick is a border in the middle of Britain. People arrive here everyday. People are forcibly deported from here everyday. It is a place where people are imprisoned for unlimited lengths of time without trial, where people are forced to hide underground and be invisible, where people are treated as criminals for the 'crime' of crossing the border.

The government has recently announced it's going to build another new detention centre at Gatwick airport. This will be another in a long line of barbarous prisons across the world, imprisoning people who migrate. Unless we stop it from being built.

Not far from Gatwick there are other border fortifications: the immigration reporting centre at Croydon, the airline companies who charter deportation flights and the ID Interview centre in Crawley. A few miles away are the border posts at Dover and Folkstone, where fear of detection by the border police forces people to risk their lives hiding under lorries, or in suffocating containers.

While the physical borders get fortified, governments also tighten up the controls on those of us who already live here: from international databases to video surveillance, biometric ID cards to electronic tagging.

Camp(aign)ing Against Borders
This camp is continuing the tradition of the No Border camps across the world since the late 1990s, and like the camps taking place this year in the Ukraine in August and on the US/Mexican border in November. It will be a space to share information, skills, knowledge and experiences. A place to plan actions together against the system of borders which divides us.

We are aware that the struggles for "no borders" reach far beyond "open borders". Without borders the idea of states will become obsolete, without states the national economies will be history. In a world without borders, nobody will ask for papers anymore.

No Borders
No Borders is a network of groups struggling for the freedom of movement for all and an end to all migration controls. We call for a radical movement against the system of control, dividing us into citizens and non-citizens. We demand the end of the border regime for everyone, including ourselves, to enable us to live another way, without fear, racism and nationalism. ★



no border camp - gatwick, uk
19th - 24th September 2007

This article has been adapted from information on the No Borders website: www.noborders.org.uk nfo@nobordersnottingham.org.uk